

House Study Bill 214 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE _____

BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON KOESTER)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to funding for the location of department of
2 human services staff in county office space.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 217.32, Code 2015, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **217.32 Office space in county.**

4 1. Where the department of human services assigns personnel
5 to an office located in a county for the purpose of performing
6 in that county designated duties and responsibilities assigned
7 by law to the department, it shall be the responsibility of the
8 county to provide and maintain the necessary office space and
9 office supplies and equipment for the personnel so assigned in
10 the same manner as if they were employees of the county.

11 2. The department shall at least annually, or more
12 frequently if the department so elects, reimburse the county
13 for a portion, designated by law, of the cost of maintaining
14 office space and providing supplies and equipment as required
15 by this section, and also for a similar portion of the cost
16 of providing the necessary office space if in order to do so
17 it is necessary for the county to lease office space outside
18 the courthouse or any other building owned by the county.
19 The portion of the foregoing costs reimbursed to the county
20 under this section shall be equivalent to the proportion of
21 those costs which the federal government authorizes to be paid
22 from available federal funds, unless the general assembly
23 directs otherwise when appropriating funds for support of the
24 department.

25 3. For the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2016, and ending
26 June 30, 2017, the department shall at least annually reimburse
27 the county for at least fifty percent of the actual cost of
28 maintaining office space and providing supplies and equipment
29 as required by this section. For each subsequent fiscal year,
30 the department shall at least annually reimburse the county for
31 at least the prior year's reimbursement rate plus an additional
32 five percent of the actual costs above the prior fiscal year's
33 reimbursement rate until the department annually reimburses the
34 county for at least seventy-five percent of the actual costs of
35 maintaining office space and providing supplies and equipment.

1 4. If a board of supervisors adopts a resolution pursuant
2 to section 331.301, subsection 17, the department of human
3 services shall enter into negotiations with the board of
4 supervisors before approval of the department's budget for
5 offices in that county. If an impasse in negotiations persists
6 thirty days after entering negotiations, either party may
7 request that the impasse be resolved through arbitration. An
8 impasse over the amounts required to be paid for by the county
9 shall be resolved by arbitration before neutral arbitrators
10 pursuant to the rules of the American arbitration association.
11 The decision of an arbitrator pursuant to this subsection is
12 subject to judicial review pursuant to chapter 679A.

13 Sec. 2. Section 331.301, Code 2015, is amended by adding the
14 following new subsection:

15 NEW SUBSECTION. 17. The board of supervisors of a county
16 that provides office space to the department of human services
17 under section 217.32 may by resolution request that the
18 department of human services enter into negotiations with the
19 board over the amounts required to be paid by the county in
20 order to provide and maintain office space and office supplies
21 and equipment for department personnel.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill relates to funding for the location of department
26 of human services staff in county office space.

27 The bill requires that for the fiscal year beginning
28 July 1, 2016, the department of human services at least
29 annually reimburse a county that provides offices for at
30 least 50 percent of the actual cost of maintaining office
31 space and providing supplies and equipment. The bill further
32 requires that for each subsequent fiscal year, the department
33 annually reimburse the county for at least the prior year's
34 reimbursement rate plus an additional 5 percent of the actual
35 costs above the prior fiscal year's reimbursement rate until

1 the department annually reimburses the county for at least 75
2 percent of the actual costs.

3 The bill also provides that a board of supervisors providing
4 office space for the department may adopt a resolution
5 requesting that the department of human services enter into
6 negotiations with the board over the amounts required to be
7 paid by the county in order to provide and maintain office
8 space and office supplies and equipment for department
9 personnel. The bill requires that the department enter
10 negotiations with the board of supervisors upon the adoption of
11 such a resolution before approval of the department's budget
12 for offices in that county. The bill further provides that
13 if an impasse in negotiations persists 30 days after entering
14 negotiations that either party may request that the impasse
15 be resolved through arbitration before neutral arbitrators
16 pursuant to the rules of the American arbitration association.
17 The decision of an arbitrator pursuant to this subsection is
18 subject to judicial review pursuant to Code chapter 679A.